

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings and versions of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-20. (*Cancelled*)

21. (*Currently Amended*) A computer-readable medium embodying a computer program for ~~automatic~~ tax data collection by an electronic intermediary, said computer program comprising code segments for:

receiving electronically information by said electronic intermediary from a taxpayer or an authorized tax return preparer of said taxpayer, wherein said received information comprises information on a tax data provider and taxpayer identification information;

connecting automatically and electronically said electronic intermediary to said [[a]] tax data provider, wherein said electronic intermediary connects automatically and electronically to said tax data provider based on said received information;

collecting automatically and electronically tax data by said electronic intermediary from said tax data provider, wherein said tax data is taxpayer specific tax data;

processing automatically and electronically by said electronic intermediary said tax data collected electronically from said tax data provider to obtain processed tax data; and

preparing automatically and electronically an electronic tax return by said electronic intermediary using said processed tax data.

22. (*Previously Presented*) A computer-readable medium as in claim 21, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data comprises taxpayer specific data related to tax liability.

23. *(Previously Presented)* A computer-readable medium as in claim 21, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data comprises at least one of taxpayer specific income, gain, loss, deduction, wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, capital losses, residential mortgage interest, and taxes.

24. *(Previously Presented)* A computer-readable medium as in claim 21, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data corresponds to at least one item of tax liability reported on at least one of an Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") form, a state form, a local form, and a foreign tax form.

25. *(Previously Presented)* A computer-readable medium as in claim 24, wherein said at least one item of tax liability comprises at least one of income, gain, loss, deduction, wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, capital losses, residential mortgage interest, and taxes.

26. *(Previously Presented)* A computer-readable medium as in claim 24, wherein said IRS form comprises one of an IRS Form 1040, an IRS Form 1040EZ, an IRS Form W-2, an IRS Form 1098, and an IRS Form 1099.

27. *(Previously Presented)* A computer-readable medium as in claim 21, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data is collected electronically via the Internet.

28. *(Previously Presented)* A computer-readable medium as in claim 21, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data is collected electronically via electronic mail.

29. **(Currently Amended)** A method for ~~automatic~~ tax data collection by an electronic intermediary comprising:

receiving electronically information by said electronic intermediary from a taxpayer or an authorized tax return preparer of said taxpayer, wherein said received information comprises information on a tax data provider and taxpayer identification information;

connecting automatically and electronically said electronic intermediary to said [[a]] tax data provider, wherein said electronic intermediary connects automatically and electronically to said tax data provider based on said received information;

collecting automatically and electronically tax data by said electronic intermediary from said tax data provider, wherein said tax data is taxpayer specific tax data;

processing automatically and electronically by said electronic intermediary said tax data collected electronically from said tax data provider to obtain processed tax data; and

preparing automatically and electronically an electronic tax return by said electronic intermediary using said processed tax data.

30. **(Previously Presented)** A method as in claim 29, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data comprises taxpayer specific data related to tax liability.

31. **(Previously Presented)** A method as in claim 29, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data comprises at least one of taxpayer specific income, gain, loss, deduction, wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, capital losses, residential mortgage interest, and taxes.

32. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method as in claim 29, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data corresponds to at least one item of tax liability reported on at least one of an Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") form, a state form, a local form, and a foreign tax form.

33. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method as in claim 32, wherein said at least one item of tax liability comprises at least one of income, gain, loss, deduction, wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, capital losses, residential mortgage interest, and taxes.

34. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method as in claim 32, wherein said IRS form comprises one of an IRS Form 1040, an IRS Form 1040EZ, an IRS Form W-2, an IRS Form 1098, and an IRS Form 1099.

35. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method as in claim 29, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data is collected electronically via the Internet.

36. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method as in claim 29, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data is collected electronically via electronic mail.

37-68. ***(Canceled)***

69. ***(New)*** The computer-readable medium as in claim 21, said computer program further comprising code segments for:

receiving electronically authorization by said electronic intermediary from said taxpayer

or said authorized tax return preparer of said taxpayer to contact and receive said tax data from said tax data provider.

70. *(New)* The computer-readable medium as in claim 21, said computer program further comprising code segments for:

searching automatically and electronically and locating automatically and electronically said tax data provider based on said received information.

71. *(New)* The computer-readable medium as in claim 21, wherein said received information comprises information to determine whether said taxpayer has a special tax case.

72. *(New)* The computer-readable medium as in claim 21, wherein said received information on the tax data provider comprises:

identification information for the tax data provider; and

electronic location information for the tax data provider.

73. *(New)* The method as in claim 29, further comprising:
receiving electronically authorization by said electronic intermediary from said taxpayer or said authorized tax return preparer of said taxpayer to contact and receive said tax data from said tax data provider.

74. *(New)* The method as in claim 29, further comprising:
searching automatically and electronically and locating automatically and electronically

said tax data provider based on said received information.

75. *(New)* The method as in claim 29, wherein said received information comprises information to determine whether said taxpayer has a special tax case.

76. *(New)* The method as in claim 29, wherein said received information on the tax data provider comprises:

identification information for the tax data provider; and

electronic location information for the tax data provider.

77. *(New)* An apparatus for tax data collection, comprising:

a computer having:

at least one of a keyboard or a mouse; and

a computer-readable medium embodying a computer program for tax data

collection by the computer, the computer program comprising code segments for:

receiving electronically information by the computer from a taxpayer or an authorized tax return preparer of said taxpayer, wherein the taxpayer or the authorized tax return preparer of the taxpayer provides the information using the keyboard and/or the mouse of the computer, and wherein the received information comprises information on a tax data provider and taxpayer identification information;

connecting automatically and electronically the computer to the tax data provider using an electronic data network, wherein the computer connects automatically and electronically to the tax data provider based on the received information;

collecting automatically and electronically tax data by the computer from the tax data provider using the electronic data network, wherein the tax data is taxpayer specific tax data;

processing automatically and electronically by the computer the tax data collected electronically from the tax data provider to obtain processed tax data; and

preparing automatically and electronically an electronic tax return by the computer using the processed tax data.

78. *(New)* The apparatus as in claim 77, wherein the taxpayer specific tax data comprises taxpayer specific data related to tax liability.

79. *(New)* The apparatus as in claim 77, wherein the taxpayer specific tax data comprises at least one of taxpayer specific income, gain, loss, deduction, wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, capital losses, residential mortgage interest, and taxes.

80. *(New)* The apparatus as in claim 77, wherein the taxpayer specific tax data corresponds to at least one item of tax liability reported on at least one of an Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") form, a state form, a local form, and a foreign tax form.

81. *(New)* The apparatus as in claim 80, wherein the at least one item of tax liability comprises at least one of income, gain, loss, deduction, wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, capital losses, residential mortgage interest, and taxes.

82. *(New)* The apparatus as in claim 80, wherein the IRS form comprises one of an IRS Form 1040, an IRS Form 1040EZ, an IRS Form W-2, an IRS Form 1098, and an IRS Form 1099.

83. *(New)* The apparatus as in claim 77, wherein the electronic data network is the Internet.

84. *(New)* The apparatus as in claim 77, wherein the computer program further comprises code segments for:

receiving electronically authorization by the computer from the taxpayer or the authorized tax return preparer of the taxpayer to contact and receive the tax data from the tax data provider using the electronic data network, wherein the authorization is provided to the computer by the taxpayer or the authorized tax return preparer of the taxpayer using the keyboard and/or the mouse.

85. *(New)* The apparatus as in claim 77, wherein the computer program further comprises code segments for:

searching automatically and electronically the electronic data network using the received information; and

locating automatically and electronically the tax data provider using the electronic data network and the received information.

86. *(New)* The apparatus as in claim 77, wherein the received information comprises information to determine whether said taxpayer has a special tax case.

87. *(New)* The apparatus as in claim 77, wherein the received information on the tax data provider comprises:

identification information for the tax data provider; and

electronic location information for the tax data provider.